

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended are requested. Support for adding that the retaining ring 36 “longitudinally engages the terminal 20” in claims 1 and 8 is found in figure 1 (at the location of the end of the lead line for item 26). Support for adding that the inner circumferential surface 40 of the annular ring 36 is “fused” (instead of being “secured”) to the outer circumferential surface 42 of the barrel portion 22 in new claim 17 (which otherwise is identical with original claim 1) is found in claim 5 and figure 1.

The examiner's rejection of claims 1-10, 13 and 14 as being "anticipated", under 35 U.S.C. 102, is respectfully traversed. The examiner rejects these claims as being unpatentable over Hollis '203. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, and claims 9-10 and 13-14 depend from claim 8.

Claims 1 and 8 require that the retaining ring 36 longitudinally engage the terminal 20. This is shown in figure 1 at the location of the end of the lead line for element 26. This claimed design prevents the sidewall 12 from being squeezed, and possible damaged, between the retaining ring 36 and the terminal 20 during the process for attaching the terminal 20 to the battery case 10. Compare Applicants' claimed design with the design of Hollis where the swaging tool of figure 1 of Hollis grinds the retaining ring (lead locking member 29) against the sidewall 10 as is evidenced from figure 2 of Hollis. The design of Hollis is subject to stress cracking of the plastic sidewall during the assembly process while the claimed design of Applicants is not.

Claims 4-7 and 13-14 also require the retaining ring 36 to be welded or fused to the barrel portion 22. The examiner alleges that Hollis teaches heating for deforming the retaining ring and bushing and that such heating is considered a weld as the elements are fused together. Applicants respectfully disagree. Hollis does not teach, suggest or describe that the retaining ring (lead locking member 29) and the lead bushing 21 are fused together. Hollis merely uses heat to soften the retaining ring and bushing such that the swaging tool of figure 1 can deform and mold and elongate and extend the end 24 of bushing 21 over a portion of locking ring 29 as shown at 28 (see column 2, lines 35-42). This deforming-molding-elongating-extending

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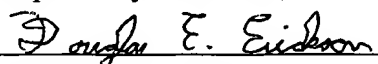
deformation mechanically traps the retaining ring longitudinally between a newly created lip of the deformed retaining ring and the sidewall 10 as shown in figure 2 of Hollis. This deforming-molding-elongating-extending deformation of Hollis is not a fusing together. Hollis states that "[t]he elements of the terminal are mechanically locked in assembled position by a swaging action" (see column 2, lines 11-12). Hollis knows what fusing together is (see column 2, line 67 to column 3, line 2) in discussing other elements of his invention which are fused together. Mechanical swaging (but not fusing such as welding) has a lower torque strength and is not as durable during assembly, and is subject to slow crevice corrosion by battery acids because there are small crevices in mechanical swaged bonds through which acid can seep through.

The examiner's rejection of claims 11-12 and 15-16 as being "obvious", under 35 U.S.C. 103, is respectfully traversed. The examiner rejects these claims as being unpatentable over Hollis '203. Claims 11-12 and 15-16 depend from claim 8. Applicants' previous remarks concerning the patentability of claim 8 over Hollis are herein incorporated by reference.

The examiner's expected rejection of new claim 17 as being unpatentable over Hollis '203 is respectfully traversed. Claim 17 requires that the inner circumferential surface 40 of the retaining ring 36 be fused to the outer circumferential surface 42 of the barrel portion 22. Applicants previous remarks concerning the patentability of this feature over Hollis are herein incorporated by reference.

Inasmuch as each of the rejections has been answered by the above remarks and amended claims, it is respectfully requested that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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